

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAB-01 SAJ-01 EB-07 ACDA-05 /090 W

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P R 200525Z APR 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1899

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANAA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0428

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, IR

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF IRAQI-IRANIAN ACCORD

REF: BAGHDAD 410 (NOTAL)

1. IRANIAN AMB SHAHIDAZDEH TOLD ME APRIL 17 THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF MARCH 6 ACCORD WAS PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY. HE SAID WORK ON SHATT AL-ARSB BOUNDARY WAS COMPLETED APRIL 15 AND THAT NO MAJOR PROBLEMS EXPECTED IN DEMARCATING LAND FRONTIER. FOREIGN MINISTERS KALATBARI AND BOUTIFLIKA DUE IN BAGHDAD APRIL 19 FOR NEXT MEETING OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON IMPLEMENTATION, (CONFIRMED BY PRESS APRIL 18).

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HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT ALL SEEMS TRANQUIL IN THE NORTH AND THAT

IRAQIS APPEAR TO BE LIVING UP TO THEIR AMNESTY PROMISES.

2. SHAHIDZADEH SAID DATES AND PROGRAM FOR RCC VICE CHAIRMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO IRAN HAVE NOT YET BEEN SET, BUT HE EXPECTED VISIT TO TAKE PLACE END OF THIS MONTH. HE DOUBTED THAT SHAH WOULD MAKE VISIT TO IRAQ BEFORE NEXT FALL SINCE HE HAD COMMITMENTS TO GO TO LATIN AMERICA AND ELSEWHERE AND WOULD NOT WANT TO COME HERE AFTER HOT WEATHER BEGINS.

3. WITH REGARD TO IRANIAN PILGRIMS TO IRAQ'S SHIA HOLY PLACES, SHAHIDZADEH SAID THEY WOULD BE PERMITTED IN FUTURE, BUT FIRST IRAN WANTS TO WORK OUT A SYSTEM WITH IRAQ TO ESTABLISH BETTER CONTROL OVER PILGRIM TRAFFIC TO AVOID RECURRENCE OF PROBLEMS CAUSED BY LARGE NUMBER OF PILGRIMS WHO REMAINED IN IRAQ ILLEGALLY.

4. SHAHIDZADEH NOTED WITH INTEREST THAT JOINT SOVIET-IRAQI COMMUNIQUE OF APRIL 15 HAD NOT MENTIONED IRANO-IRAQI ACCORD AND THAT WHILE SADDAM HAD MENTIONED IT IN HIS SPEECH IN KREMLIN, KOSYGIN HAD NOT. HE AGREES WITH ASSESSMENT THAT ACCORD HAD UNDERCUT SOVIET POSITION HERE, BUT THAT IRAQ WILL CONTINUE TO PLACE IMPORTANCE ON ITS RELATIONS WITH USSR.

5. COMMENT: RAPPROCHMENT WITH IRAN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MARCH 6 ACCORD IS PROCEEDING MORE RAPIDLY AND SMOOTHLY THAN IRAQIS DARED HOPE. THERE ARE MANY SKEPTICS AMONG FOREIGN OBSERVERS HERE WHO ARE ANTICIPATING EARLY END TO THE HONEYMOON. HOWEVER, GIVEN IRAQI-IRANIAN COINCIDING INTERESTS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IN MAINTAINING OIL PRICES AND OPEC SOLIDARITY, PLUS THE OBVIOUS POPULARITY OF THE RAPPROCHMENT FOR SHIA COMMUNITY IN BOTH COUNTRIES, I BELIEVE RAPPROCHMENT HAS MUCH BETTER THAN EVEN CHANCE OF ENDURING.
LOWRIE

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